

OCEAN CONSERVATION

The ocean is the largest, most biologically diverse place on earth and it is our job to preserve and protect it. Many species are in danger of disappearing due to the actions of humans. We all have the power to make a difference. As you travel around Adventure Aquarium, you will learn about why marine animals are important and what you can do to help.

Zone A

Stop by the Ocean Today kiosk to get the latest on the conservation efforts of the Coastal America Partnership to protect ocean habitats.



Diamondback terrapin populations are in decline in New Jersey. What are 3 things you can do to help protect them? ***Help a terrapin cross the road, drive slower when you see turtle crossing signs, use a terrapin excluder on your crab trap.***



The Orinoco crocodile is critically endangered due to hunting for its skin. What kinds of products do people buy that are made from crocodile skin? ***Handbags, belts, shoes***

All 7 species of sea turtles are listed as either “Threatened” or “Endangered”, which means their numbers are dropping and they may someday disappear completely. Name the 2 sea turtle species found in the Ocean Realm exhibit. ***Loggerhead Sea Turtle and Green Sea Turtle***

Billions of tons of plastic are a hazard for all ocean species. Sea turtles can get trapped in old fishing nets or mistake plastics for food. What can you do to keep plastic out of the ocean? ***Pick up trash on the beach, put trash in a trash can, don't put trash in water, recycle plastics, use a refillable water bottle***

Zone B

Of the 17 species of penguins, 13 are listed as “Threatened” or Endangered”. To help the African penguins survive, Adventure Aquarium participates in a Species Survival Plan. Name 2 threats to the African penguin. ***Human development, oil pollution/spills, overfishing, removal of guano/nesting material***

**For more information, visit AdventureAquarium.com
Call 800.616.JAWS to make a group reservation**

Zone C

Mystery animal in KidZone

I am a critically endangered species –there are only a few of me are left in the wild.

I live in a very small area near Mexico City. I never grow out of my tadpole-like larval stage

I am about a foot long and have feathery gills sticking out the back of my head.

Who am I? ***Axolotl***

I am a (circle one): Fish Frog Snake **Salamander**



Banggai cardinalfish are a popular home aquarium fish and their numbers in the wild are declining. What is staff at the aquarium doing to help? **Evaluating populations, establishing conservation program and studying the relationship between Banggai cardinalfish and sea anemones.**

Why is better to purchase fish for your home aquarium that have been bred in captivity and not taken from the wild? **Taking animals from the wild causes their numbers to drop and reduces their chance for survival.**

Zone D



Sea jellies, also called jellyfish, are beautiful but they can be a problem to other ocean species. Their populations are increasing and can become invasive, competing with other species for food. Sea turtles love to eat jellies. How does helping sea turtles also help jellies and other ocean species? ***Sea turtles will keep the jelly population at a healthy level, which then helps other species find food***

Scientists estimate that 100 million sharks are killed each year. They are an apex predator, which means they are at the top of the food chain and have no natural predators when full grown. Look at the sharks in Shark Realm and explain how they are designed to be an apex predator? ***Large size, streamlined body, good eyesight, sharp teeth***



Sharks do have a predator – man. Overfishing, pollution and other human behaviors contribute to declining shark populations. Sharks are also slow to reproduce. For example, sand tiger shark females produce 2 pups every 2 years. How does their slow reproduction contribute to their declining numbers? ***Humans are killing sharks faster than they can reproduce***

**For more information, visit AdventureAquarium.com
Call 800.616.JAWS to make a group reservation**